

TRUTH

THE STATE WEEKLY

THE ONE MAN

Suppose the Chicago convention as one man were to nominate Theodore Roosevelt as its candidate for President, and in the same action, in the name of the organization whose head and front he is, were to absolve him of his engagement made without solicitation and contrary to desire, not to be a candidate this year—what then?

Those who are opposed to his nomination would continue to oppose and insist upon his adherence to his "plighted faith," as they would put it. These are of two classes—those who don't want him to run because he would win, and those who are vainly yearning to step into his vacant shoes. But can the party, by which is meant the great majority of the people, afford to have such important action rest upon such flimsy considerations? Is it not the duty of the convention to do the best within its wisdom and its power in the interest of the constituency which it represents and whose voice it is supposed to be?

There is but one Roosevelt and no other name is a substitute for his. It is not herein put forth or even thought of that without him there would be disaster, confusion or defeat. This republic does not depend upon any one man or any designated circle of men for its existence or welfare. It would go ahead in its glorious career and ever and always add dominion and prestige if there

were no Roosevelt, Taft, Bryan or any other man with whatever real or imaginable name; but we have these and others, we know of them, and from them we are supposed to choose and do the best we know how in accordance with such lights as are before us and such experience as is behind us.

Roosevelt has had but one full elective term, as a matter of fact but one full term of any kind. When the Father of his country, whose natal day we have just commemorated, set the example for all his successors as to continuity of service, he had distinct and exclusive reference to successive elections, regarding it as having a tendency to subvert our popular method of choosing leaders if the people were led into overlooking their sovereign privilege of frequent changes with immediate accountability. Besides in his day, the affairs of the whole republic amounted to no more in the way of volume and duties for the chief magistrate, than is now enailed upon any one of half a dozen different governors of states; and when we consider the time required for the command to be fully grasped, what was a long term then, would mean a short term now.

With the extenuation which will be provided in advance for his change of front, and the responsibility for the success or defeat, failure or triumph of the party which has honored him so often being thus placed squarely upon